

WOMEN OF COLOR* IN ELECTIVE OFFICE 1990

CONGRESS In October 1990, of the 31 women serving in the 101st U.S. Congress (Senate and House), **4** are women of color: **Representative Cardiss Collins (D-IL)**, **Representative Patsy Takemoto Mink (D-HI)**, **Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)**, and **Representative Patricia Saiki (R-HI)**. No woman of color has ever served in the Senate. A total of 5 Black, 2 Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1 Hispanic women have served in the House of Representatives; they include 6 Democrats and 2 Republicans.

The first Black woman to serve in Congress was **Shirley Chisholm (D-NY)**; elected in 1968, she served until 1983. Four other Black women have served in the House: **Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (D-CA, 1973-1979)**, **Barbara Jordan (D-TX, 1973-1979)**, **Katie Hall (D-IN, 1982-1985)**, and **Cardiss Collins (D-IL)**. First elected in 1973, Collins is the only Black woman serving in Congress in 1990.

Patsy Takemoto Mink (D-HI), the first Asian/Pacific Islander woman to serve in Congress, was elected in 1964 and served until 1977; she was re-elected in a special election in September 1990. **Patricia Saiki (R-HI)**, first elected in 1986, is the second.

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), who won a special election in August 1989, is the first Cuban-American (female or male) and the first Hispanic woman ever elected to Congress.

STATEWIDE ELECTIVE EXECUTIVE OFFICES In 1990, of 46 women serving in statewide elective executive offices, **2** are women of color; both serve as elected secretaries of state.¹

March Fong Eu (D) was first elected secretary of state of California in 1974; she became the first Asian/Pacific Islander woman elected statewide to top executive office in any state. Eu, who was also the first woman ever elected secretary of state of California, is currently serving her fourth term.

Rebecca Vigil-Giron (D), who is Hispanic, was elected secretary of state of New Mexico in 1986.

STATE LEGISLATURES In 1990, of the 1,273 women state legislators serving nationwide, **133**, or **10.5%**, are women of color. Twenty-nine are senators and 104 are representatives; all but 2 are Democrats.

Black women hold **100** seats in state legislatures. There are 19 senators and 81 representatives serving in 32 states; all are Democrats.

Asian/Pacific Islander women hold **16** seats in state legislatures. There are 6 senators and 10 representatives serving in 3 states (HI, ID, OR); all but 2 are Democrats.

Hispanic women hold **12** seats in state legislatures. There are 3 senators and 9 representatives serving in 7 states (AZ, CA, CO, NM, NY, TX, WA); all are Democrats.

Native American women hold **5** seats in state legislatures. There are 1 senator and 4 representatives serving in 4 states (AK, MT, NM, OK); all are Democrats.

COUNTY GOVERNING BOARDS² In 1989, **75** Black women held positions on county governing bodies, comprising **10.8%** of the 696 such seats held by Black officials. In comparison, 31 Black women served on county governing bodies in 1977, holding 9.3% of the 334 such seats held by Blacks.³

*We use "women of color" throughout when referring to Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Native American women as a group. We understand that both the terms "women of color" and "minority women" are problematic, but know of no preferable inclusive term.

¹These numbers do not include: officials appointed to state cabinet-level positions; officials elected to executive posts by the legislature; members of the judicial branch; or elected members of university Boards of Trustees or Boards of Education. Former state representative Hannah Atkins (D), who is Black, serves as the appointed secretary of state of Oklahoma.

²Different data collection methods are used and different states are included in county and municipal figures from CAWP, Joint Center for Political Studies (JCPS), and National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO); therefore data from these sources should not be combined or compared. No data exist for Asian/Pacific Islander or Native American women serving on county governing boards or municipal councils.

³JCPS figures. Data on Hispanic women serving on county governing boards are not included because figures available from NALEO are for all elected county officials, not just county governing board members.

A note to users of our fact sheets: Please credit the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP), National Information Bank on Women in Public Office, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES¹ In July 1990, of the 324 Black mayors serving nationwide, 70, or 21.6% are women.² Carrie Saxon Perry of Hartford, CT is the only Black woman mayor serving in a U.S. city with a population over 100,000; Hartford is the 121st largest city in the U.S.. Including Perry, 4 Black women serve as mayors in cities with populations over 30,000.

In 1989, Black women held 651, or 22.6%, of the 2,882 municipal council seats held by Black officials. In comparison, 12, or 7.4%, of the 162 Black mayors serving in 1977 were women. Black women held 197, or 12.6%, of the 1,560 municipal council seats held by Blacks in 1977.³

In 1989, 22, or 12.5%, of the 176 Hispanic mayors are women.⁴

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT WOMEN IN ELECTIVE OFFICE

Congress In October 1990, women hold 31 seats in the 101st U.S. Congress; there are 2 women in the Senate and 29 women in the House of Representatives. Women hold 5.8% of the 535 available seats — 2.0% of all Senate seats and 6.7% of all House seats. A total of 129 women have served in the U.S. Congress to date — 16 in the Senate and 115 in the House. (Two women have served in both the Senate and the House.)

Statewide Elective Executive Offices In 1990, women hold 46, or 13.9%, of the 330 statewide elective executive offices⁵ across the country, including 3 governors and 4 lieutenant governors. In 1977 there were 29 women serving in statewide elective executive offices, including 2 governors and 3 lieutenant governors.

State Legislatures In 1990, women hold 17.1% of all seats in state legislatures. 1,273 of the 7,461 state legislators serving in 1990 are women. Women hold 267, or 13.4%, of the 1,995 state senate seats and 1,006, or 18.4%, of the 5,466 state house or assembly seats. In 1977, women held 688, or 9.1%, of the available seats.

County Governing Boards In 1988, women held 8.9% of all seats on county governing boards.⁶ 1,653 of the 18,483 county governing board members serving in 1988 were women. In 1977, women held 656, or 4.0%, of the available seats.

Municipal Offices In 1985, in the states for which data were available, women comprised 14.3% of mayors and municipal council members.⁷ There were 14,672 women elected to these posts out of a total of 102,329 officials. In 1977, women held 9,406, or 8.1%, of the available seats.

¹Different data collection methods are used and different states are included in county and municipal figures from CAWP, Joint Center for Political Studies (JCPS), National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) and National Conference of Black Mayors (NCBM); therefore data from these sources should not be combined or compared. No data exist for Asian/Pacific Islander or Native American women serving on county governing boards or municipal councils.

²Adjusted NCBM figures.

³JCPS figures.

⁴NALEO August 1989 figures. Data on Hispanic women serving on municipal councils are not included because figures available from NALEO are for all elected municipal officials, not just municipal council members.

⁵These numbers do not include: officials appointed to state cabinet-level positions; officials elected to executive posts by the legislature; members of the judicial branch; or elected members of university Boards of Trustees or Boards of Education.

⁶There is no county commissioner equivalent in CT, RI, or VT.

⁷Includes data from the District of Columbia. Complete data were not available for the following states: IL, IN, KY, MO, PA, WI.

WOMEN IN THE U.S. CONGRESS 1991

In 1991, women hold 30, or 5.6%, of the 535 seats in the 102nd U.S. Congress — 2, or 2.0%, of the 100 seats in the Senate and 28, or 6.4%, of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives. In addition, one woman (**Eleanor Holmes Norton**, D) serves as the non-voting delegate to the House from Washington, DC.

The two women currently serving in the Senate are **Nancy Landon Kassebaum** (R-KS), elected in 1978 and re-elected in 1984 and 1990, and **Barbara Mikulski** (D-MD), elected in 1986.

Including Norton, 29 women from 19 states and Washington, DC serve in the House of Representatives; 20 are Democrats and 9 are Republicans. They are:

Helen Delich Bentley, R-MD
Barbara Boxer, D-CA
Beverly Byron, D-MD
Barbara-Rose Collins, D-MI
Cardiss Collins, D-IL
Rosa DeLauro, D-CT
Joan Kelly Horn, D-MO
Nancy Johnson, R-CT
Marcy Kaptur, D-OH
Barbara Kennelly, D-CT

Marilyn Lloyd, D-TN
Jill Long, D-IN
Nita Lowey, D-NY
Jan Meyers, R-KS
Patsy Takamoto Mink, D-HI
Susan Molinari, R-NY
Constance Morella, R-MD
Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-DC*
Mary Rose Oaker, D-OH
Elizabeth Patterson, D-SC

Nancy Pelosi, D-CA
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-FL
Marge Roukema, R-NJ
Patricia Schroeder, D-CO
Louise Slaughter, D-NY
Olympia Snowe, R-ME
Jolene Unsoeld, D-WA
Barbara Vucanovich, R-NV
Maxine Waters, D-CA

Of the 29 women serving in the House in 1990, two retired and three ran unsuccessfully for the Senate; all 24 incumbent congresswomen who sought re-election won. Of the five women newly elected to the House, all are Democrats, three are Black, two are white, four ran for open seats, and one beat an incumbent. The five newly elected members are: **Barbara-Rose Collins** (D-MI); **Rosa DeLauro** (D-CT); **Joan Kelly Horn** (D-MO); **Eleanor Holmes Norton** (D-DC);* and **Maxine Waters** (D-CA).

A total of 134 (82D, 52R) women have served in the U.S. Congress to date, including 16 (9D, 7R) in the Senate and 120 (74D, 46R) in the House. Two women — **Margaret Chase Smith** (R-ME) and **Barbara Mikulski** (D-MD) — have served in both the House and the Senate.

The first woman elected to the House of Representatives was **Jeannette Rankin** (R-MT), who served from 1917 to 1919 and again from 1941 to 1942. The first woman to serve in the Senate was **Rebecca Latimer Felton** (D-GA); appointed in 1922, she served for one day. **Nancy Landon Kassebaum** (R-KS) is the first woman to have been elected to the Senate without having previously filled an unexpired Congressional term; **Barbara Mikulski** (D-MD) is the first Democratic woman to do so.

New York has sent more women to Congress than any other state — a total of fifteen to date, all in the House. Ten states have never sent a woman to either the Senate or the House; they are Alaska, Delaware, Iowa, Mississippi, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Eight Black women, two Asian/Pacific Islander women, and one Hispanic woman have served in the House of Representatives, including nine Democrats and two Republicans. No woman of color has ever served in the Senate. Four Black women currently serve in the House, including **Cardiss Collins** (D-IL), who was first elected in 1973, and three members newly elected in 1990 — **Barbara-Rose Collins** (D-MI), **Eleanor Holmes Norton** (D-DC),* and **Maxine Waters** (D-CA). The first Black woman to serve in Congress was **Shirley Chisholm** (D-NY); elected in 1968, she served until 1983. Three other Black women have served in the House: **Yvonne Brathwaite Burke** (D-CA, 1973-1979), **Barbara Jordan** (D-TX, 1973-1979), and **Katie Hall** (D-IN, 1982-1985). Asian/Pacific Islander women elected to the House have included: **Patsy Takamoto Mink** (D-HI), who served from 1965-1977 and was re-elected in a special election in September 1990 and in the November 1990 general election; and **Patricia Saiki** (R-HI, 1987-1991). **Ileana Ros-Lehtinen** (R-FL), elected in a special election in August 1989 and re-elected in the November 1990 general election, is the first Cuban-American (female or male) and the first Hispanic woman ever elected to Congress.

Women hold no leadership positions in the 102nd Congress, and they do not chair any of the standing congressional committees. Seven women, all of whom served prior to 1977, have chaired congressional committees: Senator **Hattie Caraway** (D-AR), and Representatives **Martha Griffiths** (D-MI), **Mae Nolan** (R-CA), **Mary Norton** (D-NJ), **Caroline O'Day** (D-NY), **Edith Rogers** (R-MA), and **Leonor Sullivan** (D-MO). No woman has ever been speaker of the House or majority or minority leader of the Senate.

*Norton is a non-voting delegate from Washington, DC.

A note to users of our fact sheets: Please credit the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP), National Information Bank on Women in Public Office, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University. Additional information from *Women in the United States Congress*, Congressional Research Service.

CONGRESS	DATES	WOMEN IN SENATE	WOMEN IN HOUSE	TOTAL WOMEN
65th	1917-1919	0 (OD, OR)	1 (OD, 1R)	1 (OD, 1R)
66th	1919-1921	0 (OD, OR)	0 (OD, OR)	0 (OD, OR)
67th	1921-1923	1 (1D, OR)	3 (OD, 3R)	4 (1D, 3R)
68th	1923-1925	0 (OD, OR)	1 (OD, 1R)	1 (OD, 1R)
69th	1925-1927	0 (OD, OR)	3 (1D, 2R)	3 (1D, 2R)
70th	1927-1929	0 (OD, OR)	5 (2D, 3R)	5 (2D, 3R)
71st	1929-1931	0 (OD, OR)	9 (5D, 4R)	9 (5D, 4R)
72nd	1931-1933	1 (1D, OR)	7 (5D, 2R)	8 (6D, 2R)
73rd	1933-1935	1 (1D, OR)	7 (4D, 3R)	8 (5D, 3R)
74th	1935-1937	2 (2D, OR)	6 (4D, 2R)	8 (6D, 2R)
75th	1937-1939	3 (2D, 1R)	6 (5D, 1R)	9 (7D, 2R)
76th	1939-1941	1 (1D, OR)	8 (4D, 4R)	9 (5D, 4R)
77th	1941-1943	1 (1D, OR)	9 (4D, 5R)	10 (5D, 5R)
78th	1943-1945	1 (1D, OR)	8 (2D, 6R)	9 (3D, 6R)
79th	1945-1947	0 (OD, OR)	11 (6D, 5R)	11 (6D, 5R)
80th	1947-1949	1 (OD, 1R)	7 (3D, 4R)	8 (3D, 5R)
81st	1949-1951	1 (OD, 1R)	9 (5D, 4R)	10 (5D, 5R)
82nd	1951-1953	1 (OD, 1R)	10 (4D, 6R)	11 (4D, 7R)
83rd	1953-1955	2 (OD, 2R)	12 (5D, 7R)*	14 (5D, 9R)*
84th	1955-1957	1 (OD, 1R)	17 (10D, 7R)*	18 (10D, 8R)*
85th	1957-1959	1 (OD, 1R)	15 (9D, 6R)	16 (9D, 7R)
86th	1959-1961	2 (1D, 1R)	17 (9D, 8R)	19 (10D, 9R)
87th	1961-1963	2 (1D, 1R)	18 (11D, 7R)	20 (12D, 8R)
88th	1963-1965	2 (1D, 1R)	12 (6D, 6R)	14 (7D, 7R)
89th	1965-1967	2 (1D, 1R)	11 (7D, 4R)	13 (8D, 5R)
90th	1967-1969	1 (OD, 1R)	11 (6D, 5R)	12 (6D, 6R)
91st	1969-1971	1 (OD, 1R)	10 (6D, 4R)	11 (6D, 5R)
92nd	1971-1973	2 (1D, 1R)	13 (10D, 3R)	15 (11D, 4R)
93rd	1973-1975	0 (OD, OR)	16 (14D, 2R)	16 (14D, 2R)
94th	1975-1977	0 (OD, OR)	19 (14D, 5R)	19 (14D, 5R)
95th	1977-1979	2 (2D, OR)	18 (13D, 5R)	20 (15D, 5R)
96th	1979-1981	1 (OD, 1R)	16 (11D, 5R)	17 (11D, 6R)
97th	1981-1983	2 (OD, 2R)	21 (11D, 10R)	23 (11D, 12R)
98th	1983-1985	2 (OD, 2R)	22 (13D, 9R)	24 (13D, 11R)
99th	1985-1987	2 (OD, 2R)	23 (12D, 11R)	25 (12D, 13R)
100th	1987-1989	2 (1D, 1R)	23 (12D, 11R)	25 (13D, 12R)
101st	1989-1991	2 (1D, 1R)	29 (16D, 13R)	31 (17D, 14R)
102nd	1991-1993	2 (1D, 1R)	29 (20D, 9R)**	31 (21D, 10R)**

*Includes a non-voting Republican delegate from pre-statehood Hawaii.

**Includes a non-voting Democratic delegate from Washington, DC.

Please note: table shows maximum number of women elected or appointed to serve in that Congress at one time. Some filled out unexpired terms and some were never sworn in.

WOMEN IN ELECTIVE OFFICE 1991

In 1991, 31 women, including one non-voting delegate, serve in Congress. Three states have women governors. The number of women in state legislatures is more than four times larger than it was twenty years ago. But women still hold only a small minority of elective offices; at no level of office do women hold more than 18.2% of the available positions.¹

CONGRESS

In 1991, women hold 30, or 5.6%, of the 535 seats in the 102nd U.S. Congress — 2, or 2.0%, of the 100 seats in the Senate and 28, or 6.4%, of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives. In addition, one woman (**Eleanor Holmes Norton**, D) serves as the non-voting delegate to the House from Washington, DC. Two women serve in the U.S. Senate:

Nancy Landon Kassebaum, R-KS

Barbara Mikulski, D-MD

Including Norton,² 29 women from 19 states and Washington, DC serve in the House of Representatives; 20 are Democrats and 9 are Republicans. They are:

Helen Delich Bentley, R-MD

Marilyn Lloyd, D-TN

Nancy Pelosi, D-CA

Barbara Boxer, D-CA

Jill Long, D-IN

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-FL

Beverly Byron, D-MD

Nita Lowey, D-NY

Marge Roukema, R-NJ

Barbara-Rose Collins, D-MI

Jan Meyers, R-KS

Patricia Schroeder, D-CO

Cardiss Collins, D-IL

Patsy Takemoto Mink, D-HI

Louise Slaughter, D-NY

Rosa DeLauro, D-CT

Susan Molinari, R-NY

Olympia Snowe, R-ME

Joan Kelly Horn, D-MO

Constance Morella, R-MD

Jolene Unsoeld, D-WA

Nancy Johnson, R-CT

Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-DC²

Barbara Vucanovich, R-NV

Marcy Kaptur, D-OH

Mary Rose Oaker, D-OH

Maxine Waters, D-CA

Barbara Kennelly, D-CT

Elizabeth Patterson, D-SC

STATEWIDE
ELECTIVE
EXECUTIVE
OFFICES

In 1991, 58 women hold statewide elective executive offices across the country; women hold 17.5% of the 331 available positions.^{3,4,5}

Three women, all Democrats, serve as governors. They were all newly elected in 1990: **Joan Finney** of Kansas; **Barbara Roberts** of Oregon; **Ann Richards** of Texas.

Six women serve as lieutenant governors: **Connie Binsfeld** (R-MI); **Joy Corning** (R-IA); **Joanell Dyrstad** (R-MN); **Eunice Groark** (ind.-CT); **Maxine Moul** (D-NE); and **Sue Wagner** (R-NV). Four women are attorneys general: **Gale Norton** (R-CO); **Bonnie Campbell** (D-IA); **Frankie Sue del Papa** (D-NV); and **Mary Sue Terry** (D-VA).

Women hold statewide elective secretary of state positions in ten states: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Women hold statewide elective state treasurer positions in fourteen states: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Five states — Arkansas, Indiana, Missouri, Montana, and Pennsylvania — have women state auditors; and in Illinois the comptroller is a woman. In North Dakota the tax commissioner is a woman. In eight states, women were elected as their states' chief education officials: superintendent of public instruction in Arizona, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming; superintendent of education in South Carolina; and commissioner of education in Florida. In Oregon the commissioner of labor is a woman, and in North Dakota the commissioner of agriculture is a woman. In Texas, where the railroad commissioners are elected statewide, a woman has been appointed to fill a vacancy. One of the corporation commissioners in Arizona is a woman, as are one of the public utilities commissioners in South Dakota and one of the public service commissioners in Alabama.

¹ Offices included are: U.S. Congress, statewide elective executive offices, state legislatures, county governing boards, mayoralties, and municipal and township governing boards.

² Norton is a non-voting delegate from Washington, DC.

³ These numbers do not include: officials in appointive state cabinet-level positions; officials elected to executive posts by the legislature; members of the judicial branch; or elected members of university Boards of Trustees or Boards of Education.

⁴ In Texas, railroad commissioners are elected statewide; these figures include **Lena Guerrero** (D-TX) who was appointed to fill a vacancy.

⁵ These figures do not include **Rose Mofford** (D), who served as governor of Arizona until March 6, 1991.

A note to users of our fact sheets: Please credit the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP), National Information Bank on Women in Public Office, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University.

STATE LEGISLATURES

In 1991, 1,356, or 18.2%, of the 7,461 state legislators in the United States are women. Women hold 298 state senate seats and 1,058 state house seats. The number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quadrupled since 1969 when 301, or 4.0%, of all state legislators were women.

The ten states with the highest percentages of women state legislators are:

State	% Women	State	% Women
Arizona	33.3	Colorado	31.0
Maine	32.8	Idaho	28.6
New Hampshire	31.8	Hawaii	27.6
Vermont	31.7	Kansas	26.7
Washington	31.3	South Dakota	24.8

COUNTY GOVERNING BOARDS

In 1988, in the 47 states which have county governing boards, women held 1,653, or 8.9%, of the 18,483 available seats across the country.¹ Between 1975 and 1988, the number of women serving at the county governing board level more than tripled, rising from 456 in 1975, to 1,653 in 1988.

MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

In January 1991, among the 100 largest cities in the U.S., 19 have women mayors; 4 of these women mayors serve in cities among the 10 largest. In order of city population,² the mayors are: Kathy Whitmire (Houston, TX - 4th largest city); Maureen O'Connor (San Diego, CA - 6th); Annette Strauss (Dallas, TX - 8th); Lila Cockrell (San Antonio, TX - 9th); Susan Hammer (San Jose, CA - 12th); Sharon Pratt Dixon (Washington, DC - 17th); Suzie Azar (El Paso, TX - 23rd); Sophie Masloff (Pittsburgh, PA - 38th); Sue Myrick (Charlotte, NC - 42nd); Meyera Oberndorf (Virginia Beach, VA - 43rd); Anne Rudin (Sacramento, CA - 48th); Karen Humphrey (Fresno, CA - 51st); Sandra Freedman (Tampa, FL - 56th); Peggy Rubach (Mesa, AZ - 57th); Betty Turner (Corpus Christi, TX - 59th); Terry Frizzel (Riverside, CA - 74th); Joan Darrah (Stockton, CA - 80th); Sharron Priest (Little Rock, AR - 89th); and Sheri Barnard (Spokane, WA - 95th).

In January 1991, of the approximate 900 mayors of U.S. cities with populations over 30,000, 150 are women.³

In 1985, women comprised 14.3% of mayors and municipal council members in the states for which complete data were available. There were 14,672 women elected to these posts out of a total of 102,329 officials.⁴ The percentage of women holding municipal and township offices more than tripled from 1975 to 1985, rising from 4% to 14.3%.

PERCENTAGES OF WOMEN IN ELECTIVE OFFICES

Level of Office	1975	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991
U.S. Congress	4%	4%	3%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%	6%
Statewide Elective ⁵	10%	8%	11%	11%	13%	14%	15%	14% ⁶	18%
State Legislatures	8%	9%	10%	12%	13%	15%	16%	17%	18%
County Governing Boards ¹	3%	4%	5%	6%	8%	8%(1984)	9%	9%(1988)	NA
Mayors & Municipal/Township Governing Boards	4%	8%	10%	10%	NA	14% ⁴	NA	NA	NA

¹ The three states without county governing boards are CT, RI, and VT.

² According to 1988 data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

³ United States Conference of Mayors.

⁴ Includes data from Washington DC. States for which data were incomplete and therefore not included are: IL, IN, KY, MO, PA, WI.

⁵ These numbers do not include: officials in appointive state cabinet-level positions; officials elected to executive posts by the legislature; members of the judicial branch; or elected members of university Boards of Trustees or Boards of Education.

⁶ Although there was an increase in the number of women serving between 1987 and 1989, the percentage decrease reflects a change in the base used to calculate these figures.

STATEWIDE ELECTIVE EXECUTIVE WOMEN 1991

In 1991, 58 women hold statewide elective executive offices across the country; women hold 17.5% of the 331 available positions.^{1,2,3} Among these women, 33 are Democrats,² 23 are Republicans, 1 ran on a third party ticket, and 1 was elected in a nonpartisan race. More women hold the following statewide elective executive posts than ever before: attorneys general (4); state treasurers (14); and chief education officials (8). As a result of the 1990 elections, Republican women more than doubled their numbers in statewide elective executive posts; in 1990, they held 11 such positions. Between 1990 and March 1991, the number of Democratic women decreased by one, there was no change in the number of nonpartisan women, and one third party candidate picked up a seat.

To date, women have been elected statewide to executive offices in 41 of the nation's 50 states. In Maine, New Hampshire, and New Jersey, the governor is the only executive elected statewide, and a woman has never served as governor in any of these states. The other six states where women have never been elected statewide to executive posts are: Alaska, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, Utah, and West Virginia. The 1990 elections mark the first time a woman was elected statewide to an executive post in Illinois.

GOVERNORS

Three women serve as governors in 1991.³

Joan Finney, a Kansas Democrat defeated the incumbent governor in 1990. Finney was first elected treasurer of Kansas in 1974; she served five terms before being elected governor. Finney has worked in a variety of government positions since the early 1950s.

Ann Richards, a Texas Democrat, was elected governor in 1990. Richards was first elected treasurer of Texas in 1982 and was re-elected in 1986. She previously served as a Travis County Commissioner; she was elected in 1976 and re-elected in 1980.

Barbara Roberts, an Oregon Democrat, was elected governor in 1990. Roberts was first elected secretary of state of Oregon in 1984 and was re-elected in 1988. She previously served in the Oregon House of Representatives from 1981 to 1985, on the Multnomah County Commission in 1978, and on the Parkrose School Board from 1973 to 1983.

Finney, Richards, and Roberts bring to 12 (11 Democrats and 1 Republican) the total number of women ever to serve as governors.

The first woman governor was **Nellie Tayloe Ross** (D) of Wyoming. Elected to replace her deceased husband, Ross served from 1925 to 1927. **Miriam "Ma" Ferguson** (D), inaugurated as governor of Texas fifteen days after Ross' Wyoming inauguration, served from 1925 to 1927 and again from 1933 to 1935. Both **Lurleen Wallace** (D) of Alabama, who served from 1967 to 1968, and **Ferguson** were elected as surrogates for their husbands who could not run for re-election. **Ella Grasso** (D) of Connecticut was the first woman governor elected in her own right. She was elected in 1974 and re-elected to a second four-year term in 1978; Grasso stepped down for health reasons in December of 1980. **Dixy Lee Ray** (D), elected in 1976, served as governor of Washington from 1977 to 1981. **Martha Layne Collins** (D) of Kentucky was elected in 1983 and served from 1984 through 1987. **Madeleine Kunin** (D) of Vermont is the only woman governor to have been elected to serve three terms; first elected in 1984, she served from 1985 to 1991. **Kay Orr** (R) is the only Republican woman to have been elected governor and the only woman to have run against another woman for a gubernatorial post; elected in 1986, Orr served from 1987 to 1991. **Rose Mofford**, an Arizona Democrat, became governor in April 1988 following the impeachment and conviction by the legislature of Governor Evan Mecham (R); she served until March 1991. Mofford had been serving as secretary of state when she became governor by constitutional succession.

Of the 12 women who have served as governors, 8 were elected in their own right: Collins, Finney, Grasso, Kunin, Orr, Ray, Richards, and Roberts. The largest number to serve simultaneously is 4; this occurred from January to March 1991 (Finney, Mofford, Richards, Roberts).

¹ These figures do not include: officials in appointive state cabinet-level positions; officials elected to executive posts by the legislature; members of the judicial branch; or elected members of university Boards of Trustees or Boards of Education.

² In Texas, railroad commissioners are elected statewide; these figures include **Lena Guerrero** (D-TX) who was appointed to fill a vacancy.

³ These figures do not include **Rose Mofford** (D), who served as Governor of Arizona until March 6, 1991.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS

In 1991, 6 women (1D, 4R, 1 independent) serve as lieutenant governors among the 42 states with such positions: **Connie Binsfeld** (R-MI); **Joy Corning** (R-IA); **Joanell Dyrstad** (R-MN); **Eunice Groark** (ind.-CT); **Maxine Moul** (D-NE); and **Sue Wagner** (R-NV). Of the 6 newly elected women, 5 (all except Sue Wagner, R-NV) ran in states where voters must cast one ballot for governor and lieutenant governor as a ticket. Although the first woman elected lieutenant governor was a Republican, all of the 14 other women elected since then had been Democrats until 1990.

To date, 23 women have served as lieutenant governors; 21 (15 Democrats, 5 Republicans, 1 independent) were elected and 2 (1 Democrat, 1 Republican)¹ were appointed to fill vacancies.

The first woman elected lieutenant governor was **Consuelo Bailey**, a Vermont Republican. Elected in 1954, she served from 1955 to 1957. Bailey previously served as speaker of the state House of Representatives; thus, as lieutenant governor, she became the only woman in the country to have presided over both chambers of a state legislature.¹ In addition to Bailey and those now serving, the other elected women lieutenant governors, all of whom served since 1975, were: **Martha Layne Collins** (D-KY); **Nancy Dick** (D-CO); **Evelyn Gandy** (D-MS); **Martha Griffiths** (D-MI); **Marlene Johnson** (DFL-MN); **Jean King** (D-HI); **Mary Anne Krupsak** (D-NY); **Madeleine Kunin** (D-VT); **Ruth Meiers** (D-ND); **Evelyn Murphy** (D-MA); **Nancy Stevenson** (D-SC); **Thelma Stovall** (D-KY); **Harriett Woods** (D-MO); and **Jo Ann Zimmerman** (D-IA). The 2 appointed women lieutenant governors were: **Matilda Wilson** (R-MI), who served in 1940; and **Maude Frazier** (D-NV) who served in 1962.¹

ADDITIONAL WOMEN IN STATEWIDE ELECTIVE EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

State	Name	Party
ATTORNEY GENERAL - 4 (3D, 1R)		
CO	Gale Norton	R
IA	Bonnie Campbell	D
NV	Frankie Sue del Papa	D
VA	Mary Sue Terry	D

SECRETARY OF STATE - 10 (6D, 4R)		
CA	March Fong Eu	D
CO	Natalie Meyer	R
CT	Pauline Kezer	R
IA	Elaine Baxter	D
MN	Joan Anderson Growe	DFL
NV	Cheryl Lau	R
NM	Stephanie Gonzales	D
RI	Kathleen Connell	D
SD	Joyce Hazeltime	R
WY	Kathleen Karpan	D

In addition, 3 women serve as appointed secretaries of state: Joan Haberle (D-NJ); Gail Shaffer (D-NY); Pamela Womack (D-VA).

STATE TREASURER - 14 (8D, 6R)		
AR	Jimmie Lou Fisher	D
CA	Kathleen Brown	D
CO	Gail Schoettler	D
DE	Janet Rzewnicki	R
ID	Lydia Justice Edwards	R
IN	Marjorie O'Laughlin	R
KS	Sally Thompson	D
LA	Mary Landrieu	D
NE	Dawn Rockey	D
OH	Mary Ellen Withrow	D
OK	Claudette Henry	R
PA	Catherine Baker Knoll	D
TX	Kay Bailey Hutchison	R
WI	Cathy Zeuske	R

In addition, Lucille Maurer (D-MD) and Georgie Thomas (R-NH) were elected treasurers by their state legislatures.

STATE AUDITOR - 5 (1D, 4R)		
AR	Julia Hughes Jones	D
IN	Ann DeVore	R
MO	Margaret Kelly	R
MT	Andrea Bennett*	R
PA	Barbara Hafer	R

**MT auditor also serves as insurance commissioner.*

State	Name	Party
STATE COMPTROLLER - 1 (1D)		
IL	Dawn Clark Netsch	D
TAX COMMISSIONER - 1 (1D)		
ND	M.K. Heidi Heitkamp	D

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION 6 (3D, 2R, 1NP*)		
AZ	C. Diane Bishop	D
MT	Nancy Keenan	D
OK	Sandy Garret	D
OR	Norma Paulus	R
WA	Judith Billings	NP*
WY	Diana Ohman	R

**Election was nonpartisan.*

SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION - 1 (1R)		
SC	Barbara Nielsen	R

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION - 1 (1D)		
FL	Betty Castor	D

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE - 1 (1D)		
ND	Sarah Vogel	D

LABOR COMMISSIONER - 1 (1D)		
OR	Mary Roberts	D

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER - 1 (1D)		
TX	Lena Guerrero*	D

**Appointed to fill a vacancy.*

CORPORATION COMMISSIONER - 1 (1D)		
AZ	Marcia Weeks	D

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSIONER - 1 (1R)		
SD	Laska Schoenfelder	R

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER - 1 (1D)		
AL	Jan Cook	D

¹Women in American Politics, Martin Gruber (Oshkosh, Wisconsin: Academia Press, 1968).

WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 1991

In 1991, 1,356, or 18.2%, of the 7,461 state legislators in the United States are women. Women hold 298, or 14.9%, of the 1,995 state senate seats and 1,058, or 19.4%, of the 5,466 state house or assembly seats. Since 1969, the number of women serving in state legislatures has more than quadrupled.

Year	Women Legislators	% of Total Legislators
1969	301	4.0
1971	344	4.5
1973	424	5.6
1975	604	8.0
1977	688	9.1
1979	770	10.3
1981	908	12.1
1983	991	13.3
1985	1,103	14.8
1987	1,170	15.7
1989	1,270	17.0
1991	1,356	18.2

The party breakdown for women serving in state legislatures in 1991 is:

	Total Legislatures		State Senates		State Houses	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Democrats	816	60.2	192	64.4	624	59.0
Republicans	531	39.2	97	32.6	434	41.0
Nonpartisans*	9	0.7	9	3.0	-----	-----
Total	1,356	100.1	298	100.0	1,058	100.0

The ten states with the highest percentages of women state legislators are:

State	% Women	State	% Women
Arizona	33.3	Colorado	31.0
Maine	32.8	Idaho	28.6
New Hampshire	31.8	Hawaii	27.6
Vermont	31.7	Kansas	26.7
Washington	31.3	South Dakota	24.8

The ten states with the lowest percentages of women state legislators are:

State	% Women	State	% Women
Louisiana	2.1	Oklahoma	8.7
Kentucky	5.1	Pennsylvania	9.5
Alabama	5.7	South Carolina	10.0
Arkansas	6.7	New Jersey	10.8
Mississippi	6.9	Tennessee	11.4

Every state has at least three women in its state house, and only one state (Louisiana) has no women in its state senate.

Three women currently hold the highest ranking legislative leadership positions in state senates: Senate President Pro Tempore Ellen Craswell (R-WA); Senate President Pro Tempore Bonnie Heinrich (D-ND); and Senate President Gwen Margolis (D-FL).** This is a record number of women to serve in top senate posts. Representative Jane Hull (R-AZ) is the only woman serving as speaker of a house.**

In 1894, the first women state legislators were elected to serve in the United States. Three Republican women were elected to the Colorado House of Representatives: Clara Cressingham; Carrie C. Holly; Frances Klock. The first woman state senator, Democrat Martha Hughes Canon, was elected to the Utah State Senate in 1896.***

*In Nebraska, where the legislature is unicameral, legislators are elected on a nonpartisan basis.

**National Conference of State Legislatures.

***Utah Governor's Commission for Women.

A note to users of our fact sheets: Please credit the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP), National Information Bank on Women in Public Office, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University.

STATE	STATE RANK	SENATE D R	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE	HOUSE D R	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL HOUSE	TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL LEGIS.	% WOMEN OVERALL
AL	48	0 1	1/35	7 0	7/105	8/140	5.7
AK	15	1 3	4/20	5 5	10/ 40	14/ 60	23.3
AZ	1	4 4	8/30	9 13	22/ 60	30/ 90	33.3
AR	47	1 0	1/35	6 2	8/100	9/135	6.7
CA	25	3 2	5/40	9 7	16/ 80	21/120	17.5
CO	6	3 5	8/35	11 12	23/ 65	31/100	31.0
CT	16	4 3	7/36	21 15	36/151	43/187	23.0
DE	37	3 1	4/21	1 3	4/ 41	8/ 62	12.9
FL	22	8 2	10/40	11 9	20/120	30/160	18.8
GA	34	2 1	3/56	24 5	29/180	32/236	13.6
HI	8	6 1	7/25	11 3	14/ 51	21/ 76	27.6
ID	7	10 2	12/42	10 14	24/ 84	36/126	28.6
IL	24	5 6	11/59	11 10	21/118	32/177	18.1
IN	26	7 5	12/50	6 7	13/100	25/150	16.7
IA	31	4 2	6/50	11 5	16/100	22/150	14.7
KS	9	5 4	9/40	17 18	35/125	44/165	26.7
KY	49	1 0	1/38	2 4	6/100	7/138	5.1
LA	50	0 0	0/39	3 0	3/105	3/144	2.1
ME	2	6 6	12/35	34 15	49/151	61/186	32.8
MD	14	9 0	9/47	30 5	35/141	44/188	23.4
MA	21	3 4	7/40	23 8	31/160	38/200	19.0
MI	29	2 1	3/38	11 8	19/110	22/148	14.9
MN	17	9 5	14/67	18 11	29/134	43/201	21.4
MS	46	3 1	4/52	8 0	8/122	12/174	6.9
MO	28	1 1	2/34	21 8	29/163	31/197	15.7
MT	19	7 1	8/50	18 5	23/100	31/150	20.7
NE	23	NONPARTISAN	9/49	UNICAMERAL		9/ 49	18.4
NV	20	2 2	4/21	7 2	9/ 42	13/ 63	20.6
NH	3	4 3	7/24	49 79	128/400	135/424	31.8
NJ	42	1 1	2/40	4 7	11/ 80	13/120	10.8
NM	35	3 1	4/42	6 5	11/ 70	15/112	13.4
NY	36	5 1	6/61	18 4	22/150	28/211	13.3
NC	30	4 1	5/50	13 7	20/120	25/170	14.7
ND	32	3 3	6/53	8 9	17/106	23/159	14.5
OH	33	1 3	4/33	11 4	15/ 99	19/132	14.4
OK	45	5 0	5/48	5 3	8/101	13/149	8.7
OR	12	7 1	8/30	8 6	14/ 60	22/ 90	24.4
PA	44	3 1	4/50	9 11	20/203	24/253	9.5
RI	27	6 2	8/50	11 5	16/100	24/150	16.0
SC	43	1 1	2/46	10 5	15/124	17/170	10.0
SD	10	9 2	11/35	5 10	15/ 70	26/105	24.8
TN	41	2 1	3/33	5 7	12/ 99	15/132	11.4
TX	38	3 1	4/31	13 6	19/150	23/181	12.7
UT	40	2 1	3/29	4 5	9/ 75	12/104	11.5
VT	4	7 0	7/30	27 23	50/150	57/180	31.7
VA	39	2 1	3/40	9 5	14/100	17/140	12.1
WA	5	6 5	11/49	22 13	35/ 98	46/147	31.3
WV	18	5 1	6/34	16 6	22/100	28/134	20.9
WI	13	1 4	5/33	19 7	26/ 99	31/132	23.5
WY	11	3 0	3/30	7 13	20/ 64	23/ 94	24.5
TOTALS		192 97	298/1,995	624 434	1,058/5,466	1,356/7,461	18.2
		(9 nonpartisans)					

WOMEN OF COLOR* IN ELECTIVE OFFICE 1991

Congress, Statewide Elective, State Legislative

Congresswomen — 6

Asian/Pacific Islander

Patsy Takemoto Mink (D-HI)

Black

Representative Barbara-Rose Collins (D-MI)

Representative Cardiss Collins (D-IL)

Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) (non-voting)

Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA)

Hispanic

Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)

Statewide Elective Executives — 4

Asian/Pacific Islander

March Fong Eu (D-CA), Secretary of State

Cheryl Lau (R-NV), Secretary of State

Hispanic

Stephanie Gonzales (D-NM), Secretary of State

Lena Guerrero (D-TX), Railroad Commissioner (appointed to an elective office)

State Legislators — 151

Asian/Pacific Islander — 17 (6 state senators, 11 state representatives)

Black — 115 (21 state senators, 94 state representatives)

Hispanic — 14 (3 state senators, 11 state representatives)

Native American — 5 (1 state senator, 4 state representatives)

*We use "women of color" when referring to Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Native American women as a group. We understand that both the terms "women of color" and "minority women" are problematic, but know of no preferable inclusive term.

A note to users of our fact sheets: Please credit the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP), National Information Bank on Women in Public Office, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University.